

Merchantville, NJ May 7, 2012

A Caucus meeting of Borough Council was held at 7:30 PM, Monday, May 7, 2012. Mayor North presided. Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer were observed. Announcement was made that the meeting had been advertised in accordance with the regulations prescribed by the "Open Public Meetings Act".

**ROLL CALL:**Council Present: Fields, Volkert, Brennan, Madden and Perno. Clerk Brouse, CFO Moules and Attorney Joyce were present.

**PUBLIC:**

**Frank Howard-205 Plymouth Place**-Community Center Garden, regarding the rods at garden as a safety issue, we got foam noodles for garden plots. We have pride in the garden. Some residents have a lot of shade in our yard and this area is good for planting, we have had a garden for three years.

**Dina Turan-213 N. Centre Street**-The school has a garden that helps the children discover growing and planting at an early age. PTA paid for fencing and 35 children have been working in the gardens. The gardens are Invaluable to the community. It is the fourth year for some gardens.

**Patricia Fields**-council has no objections to the gardens, only safety issues that were brought up.

**Anthony Perno**-wants to work with the Garden group. What can we do to work together? Did not want to have Public Works remove the garden, but safety is the concern. Renovations of the facility has been the goal of this Council. Rentals of the building is starting to decline. We are looking at the entire facility, not only the gardens. We will meet with the entire group to discuss the plan for the Center and Gardens, such as compost, watering areas, cedar walkways and 3 rod posting. Do not need to move the gardens at this time, but need to work with Fred Koehler to see if issues exist. Please don't add additional gardens at this time.

**Ted Brennan**-The Borough needs to have a list on file of the organization members and who is in charge along with guidelines, rules and regulations.

**Dina Turan-213 N. Centre Street**-Will plants remain? Yes, plantings will remain.

**Kris Donahue-202 Westminster Avenue**-No formal person at this time. Woodbury gardens have rules and guidelines, we need authority to offer controls. One member is an attorney, pay \$20.00 for hoses, etc. We can work toward a master gardener certification. Can we remain the same this year and have a meeting within the next few weeks?

**Bob Stocker-7 Lexington Avenue**-close one block of Lexington Avenue for a block party or August 19<sup>th</sup> beginning at 11:00am.

**Bill Walker-23 W. Cedar Avenue**-What is the status of the Verizon lot? It was discussed by the engineer. Status of the sign Ordinance? It will go to the Planning Board. TCE redevelopment attorney? **Frank North** stated that we need new eyes to look at the project, working on Councils behalf. Redevelopment committee will work with attorney and bring information back to Council.

**ENGINEER REPORT:** Robert Hunter, report attached.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**Discussion-Senior Center bathroom project-** There was a potential defect in the Senior Center bids. Bob and Tim will get together to look them over and the award will still take place next week.

**Discussion-Firehouse Roof project**

**Discussion-Community Gardens at the community center**

**Discussion-Car show use of facility and banner approval**

**Discussion-Capital Budget**

**Discussion-Refund Community Center fee for non use-**keep \$150.00 security deposit

**Discussion-Chapter 25 Borough fees-**liquor license to \$880.00 20%

**Discussion-Property maintenance-**It is that time of year that property maintenance runs amuck, keep your eyes open and let Fred or Bill know if you see issues. Fred and Bill have 87 properties that they are watching and 25 warnings were sent.

**Proclamation-Click it or ticket**

Court debt vendor is narrowed down to two choices, one is state approved at this time.

**Resolutions for agenda-the following are business resolutions that will be included on the agenda:**

- Accept bids for Senior Center bathroom project
- Accept bids for Firehouse roof project
- Approve professional for court debt
- Approve professional service agreement for redevelopment attorney for TCE
- Shade tree trust fund account
- Resolution to submit desc aid application.

**Ordinances for introduction**

- Salary Ordinance
- Amend Chapter 25 Borough fees

**Ordinances for Public Hearing and Adoption-**

- Amending Chapter 86 vehicles and traffic

**MOTION TO ADJOURN:**

On the motion of Mr. Perno and second of Mr. Volkert, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.

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DENISE BROUSE  
BOROUGH CLERK